

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 GABORO 00419 221052Z

15

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /073 W

----- 057922

R 220840Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6433

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GABORONE 0419

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BC

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER'S STATEMENT ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS

1. EMBASSY IS TRANSMITTING BY AIRGRAM FULL TEXT OF COMPREHENSIVE STATEMENT ON RHODESIAN DEVELOPMENTS MADE BY BOTSWANA MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ARCHIE MOGWE BEFORE THE NATIONAL PARLIMENT ON MARCH 14. STATEMENT IS BALANCED AND THOUGHTFUL EXPRESSION OF VIEWS OF GOVERNMENT OF BOTSWANA. IN THE CONTEXT OF A GENERAL REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, MOGWE MADE SOME COMPLIMENTARY COMMENTS REGARDING VORSTER'S EFFORTS.

2. STATEMENT WAS BLOWN ENTIRELY OUT OF PROPORTION IN MARCH 18 ISSUE OF BOTSWANA DAILY NEWS WHICH PLAYED MOGWE'S STATEMENT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 GABORO 00419 221052Z

WITH LARGE HEADLINES IN CENTER OF FRONT PAGE AS "PRAISE FOR

JOHN VORSTER BY MOGWE." (SIMILAR STORY WAS ALSO CARRIED
IN JOHANNESBURG STAR ON MARCH 18).

3. MARCH 19 ISSUE OF BOTSWANA DAILY NEWS CARRIED FRONT PAGE
RETRACTION OF THE DAILY NEWS ARTICLE, THE HIGHLIGHT OF WHICH WAS:
(REFERRING TO A GENERAL REVIEW OF THE SITUATION IN THE MOGWE
STATEMENT) "IN DOING SO HE MENTIONED THE PART PLAYED BY SOUTH
AFRICAN PREMIER JOHN VORSTER, THOUGH THIS WAS BY NO MEANS THE
MAIN MESSAGE OF HIS STATEMENT, AS REPORTED IN THE BOTSWANA DAILY
NEWS YESTERDAY."

4. COMMENT: BOTSWANA DAILY NEWS COVERAGE OF MOGWE'S STATEMENT
MAY HAVE BEEN HONEST EFFORT TO HIGHLIGHT WHAT WAS CONSIDERED TO
BE THE MOST NEWSWORTHY ASPECT OF THE STORY. THIS LINE WAS PLAYED
TO THE
CHARGE BY BOTH THE BOTSWANA CHIEF OF INFORMATION AND THE DAILY
NEWS EDITOR. OR IT MAY HAVE BEEN A PART OF A CONTINUING SKIRMISH
BETWEEN THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE DAILY NEWS STAFF.
IN EITHER CASE, THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT HAS CLEARLY
INDICATED ITS DISPLEASURE AND WE UNDERSTAND THERE MAY BE A
GENERAL TIGHTENING UP OF CONTROL FROM THERE OVER NEWS ITEMS
PUBLISHED IN THE PAPER AS A RESULT OF THE INDICENT.
THOMSEN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975GABORO00419
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750101-0088
From: GABORONE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750325/aaaaawlx.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 AUG 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <08 DEC 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOREIGN MINISTER'S STATEMENT ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOP- MENTS
TAGS: PFOR, BC, SF, (VORSTER, BALTHAZAR JOHANNES), (MOGWE, ARCHIE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006